

Appl. No. 10/815,266
Election and Amendment dated October 17, 2005
Response to Office Action dated September 15, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Original) A camera comprising:

a main body supporting a taking lens and a closeable exposure aperture; the main body defining a cartridge chamber and a film chamber disposed on opposite sides of the exposure aperture, the film chamber being defined at an upper end by an upper wall of the main body and at a lower end by an endcap assembly, wherein the film chamber is sized to selectively receive one of a roll of film and a secondary cassette housing a roll of film light-tightly therein;

the endcap assembly including a shutter support plate with an aperture extending therethrough, the endcap assembly further including a shutter blade movably mounted on the shutter support plate, wherein the shutter blade is movable between a first position, in which the aperture is substantially closed, and a second position, in which the aperture is substantially unobstructed, whereby a shaft can pass through the endcap assembly and into the film chamber for winding of film into the film chamber; and

a back cover operatively engaging the main body to enclose the chambers light-tightly therein.

Claim 2. (Original) The camera of claim 1 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a second shutter support plate with an aperture extending therethrough, the apertures in the shutter support plate and the second shutter support plate being substantially aligned, whereby a shaft

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can pass simultaneously through the apertures in both shutter support plates of the endcap assembly and into the film chamber for winding of film into the film chamber.

Claim 3. (Original) The camera of claim 2 wherein the shutter blade is disposed between the two shutter support plates such that, in the first position, both apertures are substantially closed and, in the second position, both apertures are substantially unobstructed.

Claim 4. (Original) The camera of claim 2 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a spring for biasing the shutter blade into the first position.

Claim 5. (Original) The camera of claim 2 wherein at least a portion of one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is formed with the main body.

Claim 6. (Original) The camera of claim 2 wherein at least a portion of one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is formed with the back cover.

Claim 7. (Original) The camera of claim 2 wherein one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is made of at least two pieces, wherein one piece is formed with the main body and another piece is formed with the back cover, whereby when the back cover is in the closed position, the first and second piece engage to form one of the shutter support plates.

Claim 8. (Original) The camera of claim 1 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a spring for biasing the shutter blade into the first position.

Claim 9. (Original) The camera of claim 1 wherein the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly includes a collar substantially peripherally surrounding the aperture in the shutter support plate and extending therefrom.

Claim 10. (Original) The camera of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly is formed with the main body.

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Claim 11. (Original) The camera of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly is formed with the back cover.

Claim 12. (Original) The camera of claim 1 wherein the endcap assembly is removably mounted on the main body.

Claim 13. (Original) The camera of claim 12 wherein the main casing provides a cradle at the lower end of the film chamber on which the endcap assembly can be mounted.

Claim 14. (Original) The camera of claim 1 wherein the cartridge chamber is sized to selectively receive one of a 35 millimeter film cartridge and a primary cassette of a DCS film system.

Claim 15. (Original) The camera of claim 14 further including one of a 35 millimeter film cartridge and a primary cartridge of a DCS film system disposed in the cartridge chamber, the cartridge containing at least one end of a roll of film light-tightly therein.

Claim 16. (Original) The camera of claim 15 wherein at least a portion of the film extending from the 35 millimeter film cartridge is wound in a roll in the film chamber.

Claim 17. (Original) The camera of claim 16 wherein the roll is housed light-tightly within a secondary cassette.

Claim 18. (Original) The camera of claim 17 wherein a lower side of the secondary cassette contacts the endcap assembly of the film chamber.

Claim 19. (Original) The camera of claim 17 wherein a lower side of the secondary cassette is substantially adjacent to the endcap assembly of the film chamber.

Claim 20. (Original) The camera of claim 17 wherein the secondary cassette is spaced from the endcap assembly of the film chamber.

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Claim 21. (Original) The camera of claim 1 wherein the upper wall and an inner face of the endcap assembly of the film chamber are substantially smooth.

Claim 22. (Original) The camera of claim 21 wherein the upper wall and the inner face of the endcap assembly of the film chamber each define a plane, wherein the planes are spaced at least about 36.7 millimeters apart.

Claim 23. (Original) The camera of claim 21 wherein the upper wall and the inner face of the endcap assembly of the film chamber each define a plane, wherein the planes are spaced at least about 35.2 millimeters apart.

Claims 24-36. (Cancelled)

Claim 37. (Original) A camera comprising:

a main body supporting a taking lens and a closeable exposure aperture; the main body defining a cartridge chamber and a film chamber disposed on opposite sides of the exposure aperture, the film chamber being defined at an upper end by an upper wall of the main body and at a lower end by an endcap assembly, wherein the upper wall defines an upper plane and an inner face of the endcap assembly defines a lower plane, wherein the upper and lower planes are spaced from about 36.7 millimeters to about 37.7 millimeters apart;

the endcap assembly including a shutter support plate with an aperture extending therethrough, the endcap assembly further including a shutter blade movably mounted on the shutter support plate, wherein the shutter blade is movable between a first position, in which the aperture is substantially closed, and a second position, in which the aperture is substantially unobstructed, whereby a shaft can pass through the endcap assembly and into the film chamber for winding of film in the film chamber; and

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a back cover operatively engaging the main body to enclose the chambers light-tightly therein.

Claim 38. (Original) The camera of claim 37 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a second shutter support plate with an aperture extending therethrough, the apertures in the shutter support plate and the second shutter support plate being substantially aligned, whereby a shaft can simultaneously pass through the apertures in both shutter support plates of the endcap assembly and into the film chamber for winding of film into the film chamber.

Claim 39. (Original) The camera of claim 38 wherein the shutter blade is disposed between the two shutter support plates such that, in the first position, both apertures are substantially closed and, in the second position, both apertures are substantially unobstructed.

Claim 40. (Original) The camera of claim 38 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a spring for biasing the shutter blade into the first position.

Claim 41. (Original) The camera of claim 38 wherein at least a portion of one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is formed with the main body.

Claim 42. (Original) The camera of claim 38 wherein at least a portion of one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is formed with the back cover.

Claim 43. (Original) The camera of claim 38 wherein one of the shutter support plates of the endcap assembly is made of at least two pieces, wherein one piece is formed with the main body and another piece is formed with the back cover, whereby when the back cover is mounted to the main body, the first and second piece engage to form one of the shutter support plates.

Claim 44. (Original) The camera of claim 37 wherein the endcap assembly further includes a spring for biasing the shutter blade into the first position.

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Claim 45. (Original) The camera of claim 37 wherein the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly includes a collar substantially peripherally surrounding the aperture in the shutter support plate and extending therefrom.

Claim 46. (Original) The camera of claim 37 wherein at least a portion of the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly is formed with the main body.

Claim 47. (Original) The camera of claim 37 wherein at least a portion of the shutter support plate of the endcap assembly is formed with the back cover.

Claim 48. (Original) The camera of claim 37 wherein the endcap assembly is removably mounted on the main body.

Claim 49. (Original) The camera of claim 48 wherein the main body provides a cradle at the lower end of the film chamber on which the endcap assembly can be mounted.

Claim 50. (Original) The camera of claim 37 wherein the upper wall and the lower wall of the film chamber are substantially smooth.

Claim 51. (Original) In a camera having a main body supporting a taking lens and a closeable exposure aperture, the main body defining a cartridge chamber and a film chamber disposed on opposite sides of the exposure aperture, the film chamber being defined at an upper end by an upper wall of the main body and at a lower end by an endcap assembly having a movable shutter blade mounted to a shutter support plate having a closeable aperture, and a back cover operatively engaging the main casing to enclose the chambers light-tightly therein, the improvement comprising:

the film chamber being sized between the upper wall and the endcap assembly to selectively receive one of a roll of film and a secondary cassette housing a roll of film light-

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tightly therein.